

## Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

L-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 AID-05 ( ISO ) W

----- 018707

R 181559Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 433

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKARY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 2278

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT SL

SUBJECT: TREASON TRIAL: ALL ACCUSED CONVICTED,  
SENTENCED TO DEATH

REF: FREETOWN 2007

1. TREASON TRIAL OF 15 ACCUSED, WHICH BEGAN SEPT 10, CONCLUDED NOV 16 WITH JURY AFTER TWO HOUR DELIBERATION FINDING ALL DEFENDANTS GUILTY ON BOTH COUNTS (CONSPIRACY TO OVERTHROW GOVT AND ENDEAVORING TO OVERTHROW GOVT). PRESIDING JUDGE FOLLOWED VERDICT BY SENTENCING ALL 15 DEFENDANTS TO PUBLIC EXECUTION BY FIRING SQUAD. CONDEMNED MEN HAVE BEEN GIVEN 21 DAYS IN WHICH TO APPEAL.

2. ALTHOUGH NO GOVT STATEMENT ON THE MATTER HAS BEEN ISSUED, GENERAL EXPECTATION IS THAT TWO MORE TRIALS WILL FOLLOW, ONE A COURT MARTIAL FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN PLOT, THE SECOND ANOTHER CRIMINAL TRIAL INVOLVING OTHER CIVILIANS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN CONNECTED WITH PLOT BUT TO LESSER EXTENT THAN THE 15 NOW CONVICTED.

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3. FREETOWN ATMOSPHERE VERY NORMAL IN AFTERMATH OF  
SENTENCING WITH NO UNUSUAL TENSION OR SUBSEQUENT SECURITY  
PRECAUTIONS. WHILE PUBLIC INTEREST REMAINED QUITE HIGH  
THROUGHOUT TRIAL, VERDICT AND SENTENCE WERE NOT UNEXPECTED.  
THIS AND BASIC LETHARGY OF PUBLIC ON POLITICAL MATTERS PROBABLY  
ACCOUNT FOR CALMNESS WITH WHICH VERDICT AND SENTENCE RECEIVED.  
SULLIVAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TREASON, CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, PENAL SYSTEM, POLITICAL TRIALS, ARRESTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 NOV 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CollinP0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974FREETO02278  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740333-0202  
**From:** FREETOWN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741135/aaaabdj.tel  
**Line Count:** 68  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** FREETOWN 2007  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CollinP0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by CollinP0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TREASON TRIAL: ALL ACCUSED CONVICTED, SENTENCED TO DEATH  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, SL  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005